

OCONEE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting July 19, 1999
Watkinsville Library

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Billings. The quorum present consisted of the following: Ray Billings, Ellen Purvis, Carolyn Owens, Gail Firestone, JoAnn Mitchell, Elaine Brown, Peter Wyllie, Debbie Thrasher, and Rosemary Stancil.

Debbie Thrasher, the new Oconee County Librarian, showed a video of the children and youth in the summer reading program. Attendance has been excellent, Watkinsville has the following numbers participating in the summer reading program: children (1035), young adult (166) and adult program (187). Bogart has children (300 plus 32 ESP children) program, and it will be continuing until August 15. The program has been varied with crafts, puzzles, a puppet play, sidewalk art and a bubbles fun day. Businesses supporting the reading program are Subway offering a free sandwich to children who read more than 25 books and TCBY offering waffle cones to all kids who read 25 books. More people are using the computers and there is an increase in computer use by children. The door count at Watkinsville showed 8414 visitors in June; up from 4558 in May and for Bogart the June count was 4352, up from 1279 in May. The attached sheet shows other statistics for checkout, cards issued etc. Two adult programs "Genealogy on the Internet" by Jim Rice and "The Chronological Use of Money in Georgia" by Gary Doster were presented and author Augusta Trobaugh spoke to our book group on June 29th and Beverly Conner will be speaking on July 27.

The Hogan Memorial has been dedicated and is a lovely addition to the library grounds. New shelving and bulletin boards have been donated and installed. Ground maintenance needs improvements; trees and weeds need special attention. The branch employees have made pepper spray available for emergency use. Electronic door counters are needed to replace paper count by librarians. They will be ordered. A library answering system will also be installed. Minutes of the previous two Library Board meetings were approved, motion made by Elaine and seconded by Ellen. The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Gail Firestone reported that Watkinsville Construction Funds total \$10,982 and must be spent by October. The board gave Debbie Thrasher the approval to spend the remaining construction funds as she sees fit, in consultation with Director Kathryn Ames.

Gail Firestone presented the message from the Regional library Board. A new statewide automation project is just about ready to be implemented for the first 26 library systems in the state. One library card can be used in any of the participating systems. There are many positive points for joining and a few possible negatives to be discussed. The Athens Regional Library System will have an opportunity to join the system in January 2000. More discussion will follow at further meetings this year. *Raise Up Georgia*, is a continuing project with several meetings this summer. Our asked for needs have not been met but optimism continues and we hope to reach a goal of \$8 million. The first area of emphasis will be the regional incentive grant and the funding of a 30-hour per week employee in each county. The position will be minimum wage, but it will be a boon for most of the smaller counties where we barely are able to staff the desk.

A mobile computer training unit with 8 laptops and a projection unit plus the software needed to train staff, the public, and other groups as requested has been planned and funded. The team members are Katherine Gregory, Dolly Brooks, Wrenford Archibald, Jon Monk, and Julie Walker. The proposal was for nearly \$50,000. All libraries in the region have had their computers surveyed once again for Y2K compliance. We anticipate 151 more computers for Athens and more for the branches as well.

A motion was made by Ellen and seconded by Jo Ann that the date for the October Oconee County Library Board meeting be moved to October 25 at 4:30 at the Oconee County Library. This change is due to the Regional meeting in Athens on Friday October 22nd with discussion pertinent to our meeting.

Copies of the State mandated survey were distributed and discussed. Both Watkinsville and Bogart answers to the survey by the public gave us an almost 95% rating in outstanding and above average in services. Copies of the survey are available at the libraries and worth reading. Many wished for the library to be open more hours, more mystery books, more computers and more videos.

Rosemary Stancil reported on the *Friends of the Library*. They held a pizza party for the staff in April, have published a newsletter and will be helping with the summer reading program party. Newsletters have been published and a brochure is in the planning process. A Family Fun Day for October 16 is planned. Debbie Thrasher reported that the Oconee Friends had donated \$100 for gift certificates for the Summer Reading Club and \$165 for Storytime supplies. She reported on activities for the Bogart Friends, including a stepping stone project for the picnic area and helping with the booth at the Bogart Fall Festival.

A nominating committee to submit names for the position of board chairperson was suggested. Bill Ross, Lila Wyatt, and Joe Ann Mitchell were named to the committee.

submitted by Elaine Brown for Lila Wyatt

The quarterly meeting of the Oconee County Library Board was held on Monday April 19, 1999 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bogart branch. Those present were: Debbie Thrasher, Gail Firestone, Ray Billings, Jackie Carson, Peter Wyllie, Lila Wyatt, DeAnn Craft, Carolyn Owens and Robin. There were not enough present for a quorum, so an informal meeting was held. Debbie Thrasher was welcomed as the new Oconee Branch Manager. She told about herself briefly and described her duties as the Branch Manager. Robin, from the friends of Bogart, was given the floor first. She explained that the Bogart Library would be the site for the BC Hogan Memorial dedication on Sunday, April 25 at 3:00 p.m. They were going to donate a Ginkgo tree and a Japanese Maple tree, but that they would need a plan for the planting of the trees.

Regional Director: Katherine Ames was not present, but had sent her reports (see attached forms). Gail Firestone presented Katherine's report for her.

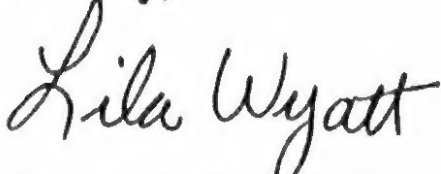
Branch Report: Debbie informed the board that a new safe had been ordered and will soon arrive. This will be used to keep fine and copy machine money in. Also door alarms will soon be installed so no books will "walk out". There are new classes for children's computer use starting up. Janet is going to a conference on genealogy and Cynthia is going to an adolescence conference. A big successful program on Dr. Seuss was just completed.

Old Business: Wendell Dawson contacted Katherine and said that the county will fix the problem of the loose pea gravel in the walk way. The work order for the ADA door has been misplaced and has not yet been ordered. It will be reworked and the door should be in operation soon.

New Business: Deborah mentioned the Bogart staff feels the need to keep pepper spray on hand for emergencies. The county lawyer was contacted and asked if it is legal. Scott Berry was also contacted and both parties said it was fine. Certain tested brands were recommended. It was suggested that an electronic "bell" device be added to the door so they will know if anyone has entered the building. There is leftover construction money available for this.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,



Lila Wyatt, Secretary

Oconee County Library Board
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting October 25, 1999
Bogart Library

The meeting was called to order and the quorum present consisted of Ray Billings, Peter Wyllie, Mrs. Jo Alspaugh, Jackie Carson, Debbie Thrasher, Caroline Owens, Elaine Brown, Deann Craft, Lila Wyatt, Bill Ross, Ellen Purvis, Katheryn Ames, and Rosemary Stancil. Mrs. Alspaugh was introduced and welcomed. The last minutes were approved and the agenda was approved.

Supervisor's Report: Debbie said all programs are being very well attended and the numbers are all up. The summer reading program for the children ended successfully on Aug. 15th. At Watkinsville 1,268 children signed up (up from 847 in 1998) and at Bogart 336 children signed up (up from 199 in 1998). These children read a total of 17,179 books in Watkinsville and 5,421 books in Bogart. There was an ending party with pizza, cake and prizes given out. The adults also had a reading program that went over well. Seventy adults participated. Area writers came and also the Clueless group started which is a mystery book discussion group. In September The Oconee County Library Friends invited author Terry Kay to speak and sign books.

Debbie mentioned that the Library has been adopted by the Junior Garden Club (mainly a girl scout troop) who planted some plants and will maintain them.

Two new employees have been added. Greg Deal will be the Branch Computer Specialist. He has been learning our system and is planning computer classes. In September he held 6 classes with a total of 64 people attending. Joyce Thomas, a former English Teacher at Oconee High School, has joined us part time. Our meeting rooms have been well used and our web page is now in operation. On it we will feature a regular calendar of events. The final construction funds have been spent. New shelves and display cases are in along with automatic door counters, ADA door openers, voice mail systems, and a receipt printer. A full report will be available at the January meeting.

Debbie will be calling the Mayor of Watkinsville to ask for a copy of their budget and Peter has set an informal meeting with the mayor of Bogart to discuss the budget. Debbie also mentioned a need to revise the policy for computer and internet usage. She discussed some problems that have been encountered. The motion was made by Peter and seconded by Elaine to revise the policy to a two hour maximum use and if no one is waiting renewal time can be added in 30 minute increments. A new sign up sheet will be include. The motion passed. The library is expecting 6 new computers for the Watkinsville branch and 3 for the Bogart branch to be coming in from the state. This should help matters also.

Regional Director's Report: Katheryn had the privilege of meeting with the governor today. "Raise Up Georgia" is getting a good reception. Katheryn explained the state wide card system that is being discussed and tried in some counties. There are some pros and cons, advantages and disadvantages on both sides. A panel will be held on Thursday to discuss these issues. Katheryn advised it may be a good system, but to move into it carefully and slowly.

Friends Report: November 6th has been set for Family Day in Watkinsville. The Friends will be sponsoring this from 10 am to 12 noon. A puppet person will be present and critters from Sandy Creek will be on display. New officers were elected. Trudy Cain is President, Vice President is Amber Elliot, Secretary is Linda Azain, and Treasurer is Gail Hanula.

Old Business: The nominating committee asked to be tabled until the new board member positions are filled. Four slots will need to be filled by the County Commissioners. Once the new board is in place, then the nominating committee will have people to consider. Bill made the motion and Carolyn seconded the motion. It passed. Ellen suggested that each board member suggest one person to be considered. Debbie was also asked to compile a list of good patrons to be considered for the slots to recommend to the county commissioners.

There was no more business and the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is set for January 17th at 4:30 at the Watkinsville Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

Lila Wyatt
Lila Wyatt, Secretary